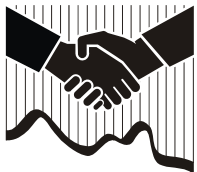


Members of the Planning Partnership

Anderson Township
Blue Ash
Cincinnati
Cleves
Colerain Township
Columbia Township
Deer Park
Delhi Township
Fairfax
Forest Park
Green Township
Greenhills
Harrison Township
Indian Hill
Jackson Township
Loveland
Mariemont
Miami Township
Milford
Montgomery
North Bend
Norwood
Sharonville
Silverton
Springdale
Springfield Township
Sycamore Township
Symmes Township
Wyoming
H.C. Board of County Commissioners
Citizens for Civic Renewal
Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency
Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati Association
Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati
League of Women Voters
Ohio Valley Development Council
The United Way & Community Chest
Western Economic Council

Planning Partnership



HAMILTON COUNTY

Regional
Planning
Commission

The mission of the Planning Partnership is to bring together public, private and civic sector organizations engaged in community planning in Hamilton county so that mutual goals related to physical, economic and social issues can be planned for comprehensively and achieved collaboratively.

Stormwater Management Training Available for Your Community

The Stormwater Management Education Train-the-Trainer Program is an educational program on stormwater best management practices. It supports a county-wide collaboration on fulfillment of the Federal EPA's Clean Water Act Phase II. This training opportunity is now available to commissioners and elected officials in Hamilton county to help meet the mandated educational/outreach requirements and gain compliance with the NPDES* Phase II Permit.

The Program has been developed by a subcommittee of the Planning Partnership in collaboration with several other organizations. Members include Terry Vanderman and Deanna Kuennen, from the Planning Partnership Program Committee, John Eisenmann from CDS Associates, Inc., Jim Rozelle from F.M.S.M. Engineers, Inc., Holly Utrata-Halcomb and Brian Bohl from The Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, Tom Ryther from The Hamilton County Wet Weather Initiative, Robyn Carothers from The Mill Creek Restoration Project, and Nancy Elwood from The Mill Creek Valley Watershed Council.

(*) NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The Training Is Free

The 20-30 minute Power Point presentation and handbook will be available beginning in June 2002. The program will:

- Provide basic information regarding the NPDES Phase II Permit Program
- Discuss the implications of this mandate.
- Discuss a number of general site development principles that can be used to improve the quality of the storm water leaving a development site.
- Share a "real life" development scenario that demonstrates how these principles can be incorporated into a plan.
- Provide a list of available resources to assist jurisdictions in gaining an additional level of expertise when dealing with the issue of storm water management.

Questions? To schedule a presentation contact Terry Vanderman at 821-7600 or tvanderman@wyoming.oh.us

The Partnership's Annual Meeting

On April 8th the Planning Partnership celebrated its second anniversary. Almost a hundred attendees congregated at Memorial Hall for the event that included an information fair, the presentation of the annual report, the election of new officers, awards, and a debate on the topic "Urban/suburban interdependence: implications for public policy."

Partnership members and guests visited the information booths where committee members explained the state of current initiatives.

The 2002-2003 Partnership officers are Gwen McFarlin, Chairperson, Pete Witte, Chairperson-elect, and Dick Huddleston, Vice-Chair.

The Great Partners in Planning Award was presented for the first time to individuals who have contributed with their leadership and commitment to the advancement of the Partnership's mission.

Myron Orfield, author of Metropatterns, a study of socio-economic and land use trends that are shaping our region, and Dusty Rhodes, Hamilton County Auditor, debated on the controversial topic of competition for resources in a highly fragmented environment.



Dick Huddleston, Chairman (2001-2002) addressing the public at the meeting.

More on the Annual Meeting, inside.

See insert:

**The Critical Role of
Local Governments in
Community COMPASS**

Message

To the Planning Partnership

By Gwen McFarlin

This next year will be challenging and exciting for the Planning Partnership. One of its major initiatives, the countywide plan Community COMPASS is



demonstrating much promise. As Chairperson of the Planning Partnership and a Trustee from Springfield Township, I look forward to working with Peter Witte, Chair-Elect, from the City of Cincinnati, and Vice Chair Dick Huddleston, from Springdale.

I am committed to working with the various jurisdictions to develop strategies that will tap the best energies of elected officials and citizens alike and improve the health and quality of life for us all. We will develop win-win solutions.

To achieve these results we seek to increase our membership. Just as important, we need to strengthen communications and understanding of our mission between and within jurisdictions in the County. The Planning Partnership will be the catalyst for successfully addressing mutual concerns about our future.

Through community meetings, COMPASS Action teams are developing strategies around the core issues of Assuring Economic Prosperity, Balancing Development and the Environment, Embracing Diversity and Equity and Building Collaborative Decision-Making. The directions that emerge from these deliberations will set the course for the next generation in Hamilton County.

I decided to become involved because of my growing concerns for the future of our county. We must revitalize our downtowns and attract businesses to increase the tax base of communities throughout our county. We must strengthen the fabric of every neighborhood.

***"Vision without action
is merely a dream.
Vision with action
can change the world."***

In the Spotlight



*Planning Partnership Officers 2002-2003 (left to right)
Dick Huddleston, Vice-Chair, Gwen McFarlin, Chair, and Pete Witte Chair-Elect.*

Gwen McFarlin has been a trustee of Springfield Township since 1995. She holds degrees from Miami University and the University of Cincinnati. She is a member of the Planning Partnership's Organizational Strategy Committee and Storm Water Steering Committee. Among her awards is the Outstanding Woman's Achievement Award from the Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus.

Peter "Pete" Witte is a 1986 Elder High School Graduate. Pete has been the President of the Price Hill Civic Club since 2000. Mr. Witte is committed to neighborhood revitalization. He established "Party on the Hill," a one-day street festival held in late summer in Price Hill for the last three years. His home and business, Baron Engraving (former College Hill Engraving), are located in Price Hill.

Richard "Dick" Huddleston is partner and vice-president of sales for the Miller Valentine Group. He has been a member of the Springdale Planning Commission since 1996; Member Trustee, OKI Regional Council of Governments; Council Member & Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission, City of Blue Ash; and Trustee, Cincinnati Center for Economic Education (UC). He is a Licensed Ohio Real Estate Agent (25 years). Attended the University of Cincinnati, and Ohio College of Applied Science (OCAS).

Partnership's Annual Meeting Highlights



Myron Orfield (left) and Dusty Rhodes (right) debated implications and consequences of the growth pattern exhibited in the Cincinnati region in the last decades. Myron Orfield pointed out that strategic alliances among jurisdictions and between Cincinnati and Dayton will be the key to sound economic development and community services provision. Dusty Rhodes contended that, at the core of the region, the City of Cincinnati has to re-invent itself to become "the" reason to come, otherwise the exodus to suburbs and adjacent counties will not stop in spite of tax incentives.

News

COMPASS Action Teams

(CATs) Making Great Progress

Twelve CATs with about 200 volunteers met in May to build upon the results of the Countywide Town Meeting.

Back in January the successful countywide town meeting produced a shared "vision" for the future of the county. The CATs have further identified and clarified objectives, underlying issues, key barriers and assets related to each of the core goals identified at the Countywide Town Meeting. They also evaluated the status of existing initiatives related to each strategy.

The CATs prioritized the strategies based on potential for having significant impact on objectives, current need, and the feasibility of implementation. The CATs also identified implementation implications: the benefits, current policies that impede progress, policies that help, the potential partners and champions for implementation, and the appropriate indicators of progress.

On May 21st all the CATs met at the St Bernard High School to finalize a comprehensive and prioritized set of strategies for implementing "the Vision for Hamilton County's Future". Recommendations were forwarded to the COMPASS Steering Team for consideration.

More on the Annual Meeting



Information Fair stations were visited by many. The "passports" stamped as you "traveled" from station to station gave participants the right to enter in a drawing for door prizes.



The Great Planning in Partners Awards were presented by Jerry Thomas, HCRPC commissioner. One distinguished recipient, Jenny Laster, from the Grass Root Leadership Academy received the **Collaboration Builder Award** for exceptional support for Community COMPASS.

Certified Planning Commissioners' Program

Mark your calendars: the next two-day training will be on October 21 & 22. For information or pre-registration call 513-946-4455.

Thank You!

By the end of March 100% of the Partnership's annual fee was paid. Thanks for your support. The fee structure is being revised to ensure equitable fees are applied throughout the county. Any changes if approved will be effective in 2003.

Clean Ohio Funds: Update

On May 10th the Hamilton County Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) evaluated and ranked applications competing for Clean Ohio Conservation Funds. The priority list was sent to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for final review of compliance with state requirements and release of the \$2.2 million appropriated for Hamilton County (District 2) in 2002. The Clean Ohio Conservation Program provides funding for purchase of open space and protection of stream corridors.

The state grants are expected to be awarded on July 1st.

Editorial Committee Welcomes New Members

Starting with this issue you will see a continued improvement in the content and layout of the Partnership's newsletter. Frank Davis, Stephen Dana and Adam Goetzman have joined the editorial committee,... and you can too!

Your talent as a writer, designer, photographer, and/or reporter can be put to good use in the production of the Partnership's newsletter. If you are interested in becoming involved with this project, contact Catalina Landivar at 946-4455.

Multi Government Cooperation Makes Possible Corridor Study

Green and Colerain Townships and the City of Cheviot have teamed with the County Engineer and local property owners to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the 5.9-mile Cheviot Road/North Bend Road Corridor. The transportation engineering and planning firm of Parson Brinkerhoff is conducting the study that will examine capacity and access management issues.

The first phase of the study (currently underway) is a review of the existing conditions, including roadway geometry, abutting land uses, existing traffic controls, capacity and accident report analyses. Next, the magnitude of future traffic problems if no improvements to the corridor are made will be quantified. The final phase of the project will recommend phased improvements to maintain the viability of the corridor.

Public participation is a key element of this cooperative effort. The project team meets monthly with both local officials and residents.

Information: www.greentwp.org follow the link to Cheviot/North Bend site.

Guest Column:

A Framework for Change: Cincinnati's New Zoning Code

The last major revisions to the City of Cincinnati zoning code occurred in 1963. A generation later the City is in the final phase of a zoning code update. The kick off event was held in September 1999, and provided an opportunity for the public to give feedback about the current zoning code and administrative processes.

The new code effectively addresses a major issue: enforcement of zoning regulation in Cincinnati. A Zoning Hearing Examiner will hold public hearings on common applications and will provide zoning relief in the form of special exceptions, variances, and conditional uses. Clarification of decision making authority and the adoption of common standard procedures has streamlined and strengthened the Code.

Planning Department staff initiated several changes for improved land use practices: cluster housing, Planned Development (PD) district, buffer yard requirements and mandatory parking lot landscaping.

Cluster housing will permit development of single family dwellings while allowing the property to be developed in a more flexible manner. The development will have required buffer yards along the perimeter of the property and meet the density requirements of the underlying district; but setback requirements may be reduced or eliminated.

The Planned Development (PD) district will replace several existing special overlay districts. The intent is to encourage creativity in development by allowing greater flexibility in access, open space, amenities, and mix of uses and densities.

The buffer yards and screening will minimize conflicts between land uses. The parking lot landscaping will provide additional landscaping and break up large "seas of asphalt".

The revised Code will go to City Council for approval in early summer. At the end of the year an ordinance will be presented to City Council for adoption of both the code and the map. Minor map changes to the zoning map will occur at this time, providing for the new zoning districts established in the revised code. Major map changes will not occur until after the completion of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Comments or questions:

Julia B. Carney, AICP
Sr. City Planner, 352-4882
Julia.carney@rcc.org

Starting with this issue, Planning Partnership members are encouraged to share local news with our readers. For deadlines and guidelines contact Catalina Landivar 946-4455.



Upcoming Events

June 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Stormwater Management Education Train-the-Trainer Session - Wyoming Planning Commission	June 3	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Wyoming Administration Building	Terry Vanderman 821-7600
COMPASS & Planning Partnership	June 13	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Techsolve	Ron Miller/Caroline Statkus 946-4453/946-4461
Program Committee	June 24	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Wyoming Administration Building	Joanne Gerson 793-2648
Executive Committee	June 26	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251-0880
Membership Committee	TBD			Adam Goetzman 598-3060
Planning Commissioners' Program Focus Group Reach out strategies development	June 27	TBD	TBD	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455

July 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Stormwater Management Education Train-the-Trainer Session: HCRPC	July 3	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	CAB Room 805	Terry Vanderman 821-7600
Newsletter Editorial Committee	July 9	9:00 am – 11:00 am	CAB Room 807 138 E. Court St.	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
Program Committee	July 16	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Wyoming Administration Building	Joanne Gerson 793-2648
Membership Committee	TBD			Adam Goetzman 598-3060
Executive Committee	July 24	8:00 am – 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251-0880
Newsletter: Deadline for submissions	July 26	12:00 pm	CAB Room 807 138 E. Court St.	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
COMPASS & Planning Partnership	July 30	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Drake Conference Center Rooms D & E	Ron Miller/Caroline Statkus 946-4453/946-4461

August 2002

Event	Date	Time	Location	Contact
RPC Meeting COMPASS Update	August 1	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	CAB Room 805 138 E. Court St.	Ron Miller/Caroline Statkus 946-4453/946-4461
Editorial Committee	August 6	9:00 am – 11:00 am	CAB Room 807 138 E. Court St. 45202	Catalina Landivar-Simon 946-4455
Program Committee	August 20	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Wyoming Administration Building	Joanne Gerson 793-2648
Executive Committee	August 28	8:00 am- 10:00 am	Drake Conference Center Room H	Pete Witte 251-0880
Membership Committee	TBD			Adam Goetzman 598-3060
Stormwater Management Education Train-the-Trainer Session	TBD			Terry Vanderman 821-7600

Note: Schedule of meetings is subject to change. Please confirm with the listed contact person or check the Planning Partnership website:

www.planningpartnership.org .

The Critical Role of Local Governments in Community COMPASS

Ron Miller, Executive Director – Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

In Hamilton County, local political jurisdictions have a critical role in creating and implementing countywide plans. Most people assume that the Board of County Commissioners can adopt a plan for Hamilton County and then proceed with implementation – not in Ohio.

State Law and the County Plan

Ohio law does not authorize a Board of County Commissioners to adopt, modify or change a community plan unless first approved by the Regional or County Planning Commission. Therefore, the Hamilton County Commissioners can only adopt or deny a plan that the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) approves and certifies to it.

Ohio Law also provides that the County Commissioners' adoption of the plan only pertains to the unincorporated area – i.e., on behalf of the townships (townships are not authorized to adopt community plans). Once the Board of County Commissioners adopts the plan, then (per Ohio Revised Code) "no public building, roadway, bridge, viaduct, or other public improvement or utility, publicly or privately owned, whose construction or location would constitute a departure from the plan, shall be constructed or authorized by the board except by unanimous vote".

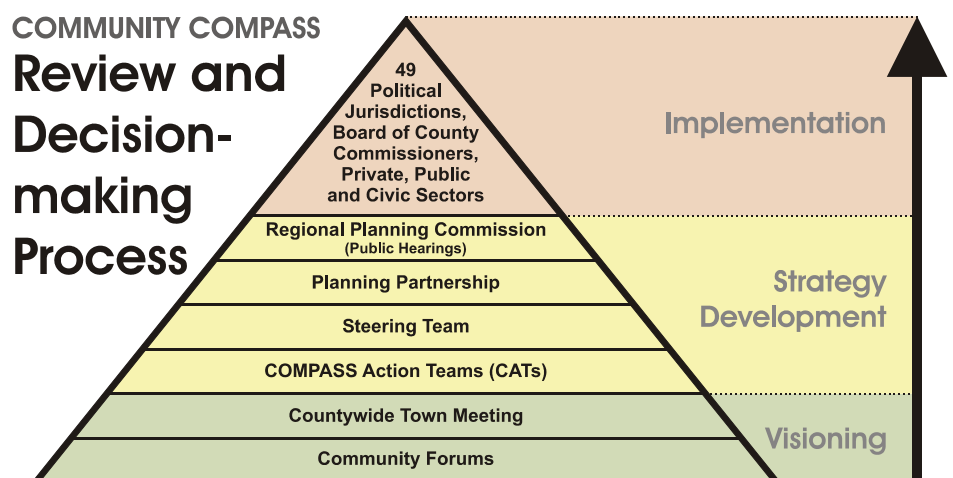
In addition to the certifying the adopted plan to the County Commissioners, the Ohio law also requires the RPC to certify the plan that it adopts to each municipality in the county. In this way, Ohio law enables the RPC to be a catalyst for cooperative planning and intergovernmental coordination but implementation is largely dependent on endorsement by local governments. The planning commissions and councils of each municipality have authority to take action on RPC's plan in accordance with the procedures adopted in their individual charters and their individual charter controls the effect (if any) of municipal adoption.

COMPASS Review Process

Achieving acceptance and implementation of countywide plans in a county with 49 political jurisdictions is a challenging and complex process -- and one of the most important future roles of the RPC and its Planning Partnership.

The Partnership is needed to help navigate Community COMPASS (Comprehensive Master Plan & Strategies for Hamilton County) through many levels of review and approval.

The chart entitled "Review and Decision-making Process" identifies the various levels of review and acceptance. It shows that citizen's recommendations (from Community Forums and the Countywide Town Meeting) as well as COMPASS Action Team recommendations are advisory to the COMPASS Steering Team (which includes over 70 representatives from public, private and civic sector organizations and is a subcommittee of the Planning Partnership). The Steering Team recommendations are advisory to the Planning Partnership (which is the long-range planning committee of the Regional Planning Commission). The Planning Partnership recommendations are advisory to the Regional Planning Commission (which is an alliance of local planning commissions and governing bodies in Hamilton County). The Regional Planning Commission (which will hold public hearings prior to plan adoption or modification) is advisory to all governing bodies in the County that are members of the commission including the Board of County Commissioners.



The final arbiter of whether the end product of Community COMPASS is fair, balanced and reflective of community preferences will be each of the governing bodies in each of the communities in Hamilton County – with the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners being one of 50 decision making bodies.

The level of comprehensiveness and balance of participation at the early phases of visioning and strategy development will be very important to the final decision makers.

Cooperative Planning

The planning structure described here was largely established in 1929 with the creation of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. The intent was to institutionalize a “Cooperative Method” of coordinating countywide goals in a county that consisted of political subdivisions, each with a right to its own autonomy – the brainchild of Alfred Bettman, a Hamilton County Regional Planning Commissioner in 1929 and one of the most influential leaders in the national planning movement.

The “Cooperative Method” required political subdivisions to cooperate among themselves in order to overcome the problem of division. In other words, the problem would be solved not by eliminating the divisions but by establishing a structure to facilitate their cooperation. Today, this structure has been greatly enhanced by the formation of the Planning Partnership. The “Cooperative Method” (and now the Planning Partnership) attempts to solve the problem of division by accommodating it. The “Cooperative Method” of regional planning was initially adopted to avoid the need for metropolitan government, an idea that caught on in the U.S. in the 1920’s.

The Planning Partnership’s Role

Due to the importance of local government in Ohio and in our county, the Planning Partnership's role in reviewing, endorsing and building consensus (among 49 jurisdictions, 300+ elected officials, and 300+ planning commissioners -- as well as many civic, private and public sector organizations) is a critical part of the COMPASS process and is the foundation for sustaining the implementation effort. Without the Planning Partnership as a foundation, Community COMPASS would be impossible. The role of Planning Partnership representatives (from each jurisdiction) is critical to the success of Community COMPASS.

Appointed representatives must assure that COMPASS goals and recommendations are understood and discussed by their local planning commission and governing body.

Similarly, the representatives of Affiliate Members (public, private and civic sector organizations) must assure that COMPASS goals and recommendations are understood and discussed by their organizations.

Now you know why nobody has attempted to adopt a comprehensive plan in Hamilton County for 40 years! With the establishment of the Planning Partnership and the commitment of its Representatives, we are now prepared to cooperatively and successfully create and implement a Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies for Hamilton County – Community COMPASS.